

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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FOR IOR/MEDIA REACTION; IBS/PF; VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION : NARCOTICS CONTROL

1. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
NEWSPAPER, THE GUARDIAN, AUGUST 5, 1973:

2. "DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

"DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IS AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN THAT DESERVES
ALL THE CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WHICH ALL GOVERNMENTS
AND WORLD BODIES CAN MUSTER. BY AND LARGE, THREE MAIN FACTORS
ARE INVOLVED -- DEMAND, SUPPLY AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC -- AND
ALTHOUGH EFFORTS TO DATE TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE HAVE BEEN VIEWED
TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER, FURTHER CLOSE
CO-ORDINATION BY GOVERNMENTS, SPECIALISED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS, AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS ARE NECESSARY IF SUCCESS IS TO
BE ACHIEVED AS DESIRED BY ALL. SEMINARS AND CONVENTIONS ON THE
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CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE CONCLUSION THAT THE

INDIRECT METHODS EMPLOYED FOR CONTROLLING THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF DANGEROUS DRUGS HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE MAINLY BECAUSE THESE HAVE HAD TO RELY ON THE WILLINGNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTICIPANTS IN A PROCESS IN WHICH THEY MANY NOT SHARE THE SAME DEGREE OF CONCERN AND INTEREST. DESPITE WORLDWIDE EFFORTS THE CAMPAIGN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL HAS NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED, AS EVINCED BY THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC.

3. "WHEN THE TERM GOLDEN TRIANGLE IS MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH GLOBAL MISERIES STEMMING FROM DRUG ABUSE, WE CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL CHAGRINED BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF A SECTION OF OUR TERRITORY IN THE AREA FALLING UNDER THE DESCRIPTION. THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS ON OUR PART AT HELPING TO REMOVE PART OF THE CAUSE FOR THE EVENTUAL SCOURGE ON HUMANITY. CONCERTED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION ALONG WITH INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES HAVE RECENTLY LED TO APPRECIABLE RESULTS. THE TATMADAW'S ASSAULT ON THE MONG MAU STRONGHOLD OF THE PRINCIPAL DRUG-TRAFFICKERS WAS CITED BY A U.S. CONGRESSMAN AS AN ACLXTHAT HAS YIELDED 'ASTOUNDING SUCCESS'. HE

NOTED THAT THE CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN MARKED 'SOLID EVIDENCE' OFBURMESE CO-OPERATION IN ANTI-NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. BROADCASTS BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO GIVEN US, AND THAILAND AS WELL, DUE CREDIT FOR THE GOOD WORK. CONTINUED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION ARE NOT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT BECAUSE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE AT HOME HAVE PROVIDED EVIDENCE OF THE GROWING MENACE THAT DRUG ABUSE HAS PROVED TO BE.

4. "SPEAKING RECENTLY AT LOIKAW, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH U AUNG THEIN CALLED FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. ON THE HEELS OF THAT CALL SURFACED A REPORT ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT THE TADAGALE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. THERE ARE OTHER CASES WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNREPORTED BUT CONSTITUTE A MEANACE NO LESS. MARIJUANA, OPIATES, HALLUCINOGENS, STIMULANTS AND SEDATIVES OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS CAN PROVE TO BE A MEANACE TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO GETS ADDICTED TO THEM, TO SOCIETY AND TO HUMANITY IN GENERAL. WHERE THERE IS DEMAND, THERE WILL BE SUPPLY..TO GET AT THE POPPY-GROWERS WHO HAVE FOUND THAT CULTIVATION A LUCRATIVE EMPLOYMENT, REHABILITATION HAS TO BE PROGRAMMED, AT THE SAME TIME CRACKING UNCLASSIFIED

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DOWN ON ILLICIT MOVEMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES. A NEW LAW IS TO BE ENACTED TO FURTHER CURB DRUG DEPENDENCE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC. IN DOING SO WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT A LINE BE DRAWN BETWEEN THE DRUG PEDLAR AND HIS VICTIM, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE PUSHER DESERVES LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT WHILE HIS VICTIM NEEDS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. HEROIN ADDICTION, IT IS TO BE NOTED, IS A CONTAGIOUS EPIDEMIC DISEASE. RESEARCHERS CONCLUDE THAT THE ROLE OF THE PUSHER IN DRUG

ABUSE IS NOT PRIMARY, IT IS THE USERS WHO SPREAD THE ADDITION
BY PERSUADING THEIR FRIENDS TO JOIN THEM. MEANWHILE,
BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS, POOLING RESOURCES AND
KNOW-HOW, MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTINUE AS WE ATTEMPT CURBS
AT HOME."
MCCONEGHEY

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